



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

May 26, 2005

# News Release

## **ALIEN SMUGGLER CONVICTED FOR ASSAULTING ICE AGENT**

*The smuggler was also convicted for transporting an illegal alien*

HOUSTON — A Mexican national was convicted yesterday in federal court on one count of transporting an illegal alien and for assaulting a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agent Feb. 22.

ICE special agents received a tip regarding a possible hostage situation where an illegal alien was being held against his will. Undercover ICE agents posing as the illegal alien's relative arranged to meet the smuggler at a gas station in the 3700 block of Broadway in South Houston.

Jose Ramos-Flores, 22, was sitting in his vehicle at the gas station with the illegal alien when undercover ICE agents approached the car and identified the alien. Shortly after, ICE agents surrounded Ramos-Flores's vehicle. In an attempt to flee, Ramos-Flores rammed his car into a truck driven by an ICE agent. Ramos-Flores continued to accelerate pushing back the agent's truck several feet.

ICE special agents converged on Ramos-Flores's vehicle and successfully pulled him out of his vehicle. The ICE agent driving the truck did not sustain any injuries.

"Smugglers are becoming more aggressive in cases involving hostage situations," said Bob Rutt, special agent-in-charge for the Houston ICE office. "We have to take measures to ensure that these ruthless smugglers don't create more serious situations and endanger the lives of their human cargo, the public and our officers."

Sentencing for Jose Ramos-Flores is set for Aug. 26. He faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for both assaulting the federal officer and for illegally transporting an undocumented alien.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*